

HIS
HIGHNESS IS
HERE TO
MEET WITH
YOU,
MISS
KIHARA.





MISS
KIHARA
MEI...



...IT IS A
PLEASURE
TO SEE
YOU
AGAIN.



PRINCE
OSAMU,
IT IS AN
HONOR.



...THIS IS
THE BOY I
SAVED IN
THE
FOREST.

I HAD TO
COME BY TO
PROPERLY
THANK YOU
FACE TO
FACE.

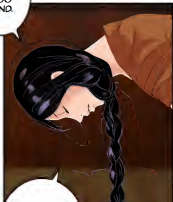




HE LOOKS
TO BE IN
MUCH
BETTER

BETTER
HEALTH.
THAT'S
GOOD.

YOU
ARE
TOO
KIND.





I'M GLAD TO
SEE YOU
DOING SO
WELL, YOUR
HIGHNESS.



I AM, THANK
YOU.
ARE YOU
ENJOYING
YOUR STAY IN
THE PALACE?





YES, THE
GENEROSITY THAT THE
KING HAS DISPLAYED
TOWARD MY FAMILY
AND I IS BEYOND
WORDS.



**GOOD, I'M
QUITE GLAD
TO HEAR IT.**

**PLEASE
FORGIVE ME,
AS I HAVE
MUCH TO
PREPARE.**





PRINCE JEONG-HO
AND HIS SISTER
PRINCESS MYEONG-SUK
ARE DUE TO ARRIVE IN
THE NEXT DAY OR SO,
AS I'M SURE YOU'VE
ALREADY HEARD.

I'VE HEARD
OF THEM...
I THINK THEY
ARE FROM A
NEIGHBORING
KINDOM.

I UNDERSTAND.



A close-up of a person's face, partially obscured by a speech bubble. The person has light skin and is wearing an orange garment with a dark orange sash. The background is a warm, brownish-orange color.

**IF YOU NEED
ANYTHING,
DO NOT
HESITATE TO
REACH OUT
TO ME.**



THANK
YOU,
YOUR
HIGHNESS.



I SUPPOSE
I'LL RETURN
THIS CHEAP
JEWELRY TO
YOU NOW.

"CHUCKLE"





...I PICKED IT OUT
BECAUSE I
THOUGHT IT WAS
PRETTY.

I KNOW IT MAY

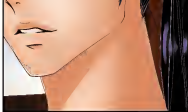
I KNOW IT MAY
LOOK CHEAP
TO YOU, BUT I
LIKE IT.





SORRY, I DIDN'T
MEAN TO
INSULT YOU.







IT'S FINE.

...ARE YOU
ALRIGHT?



YOU LOOK LIKE
YOU TOOK MY
TEASING A BIT
TOO SERIOUSLY.

I'M.... I'M
JUST A BIT
OUT OF
SORTS.

I WAS LIVING A
PRETTY NORMAL
LIFE BEFORE
COMING HERE,
YOU KNOW?





NOTHING HAS
BEEN THE SAME
SINCE I FOUND
PRINCE OSAMU
IN THE FOREST
THAT DAY.

I'VE BEEN
THRUST INTO
THIS PALACE
AND THIS
JOB... I FEEL
A BIT...

...AIMLESS.





I CAN
UNDERSTAND...

WHAT DID YOU
DO BEFORE
COMING HERE?

DID YOU MAKE A HABIT
OF BREAKING INTO
BROTHELS BEFORE
MEETING ME?



MY PARENTS AND
LITTLE BROTHER
FARMED VEGETABLES
AND FRUIT, AND I
TRAVELLED INTO TOWN
TO SELL FOR THEM.

IT WAS VERY
PEACEFUL.

...AND AS FOR THE
BROTHEL...

...I BLAME THAT ON
MY INCESSANT
NEED TO HELP
OTHERS OUT, LIKE
I ALWAYS SAW MY
BROTHER DOING.



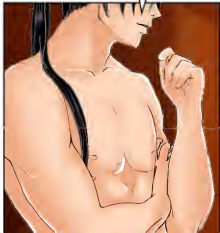
AH... A
BROTHER
COMPLEX?

"SHUCKLE F"

COMPLEX.

CHUCKLE

SHOULD I FEEL
JEALOUS OF HIM,
TOO?

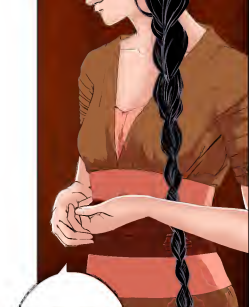




NO
NEED.

HE'S GONE NOW...
AND, ACTUALLY...
YOU MIGHT'VE
KNOWN OF HIM.







IT'S BEEN A FEW
YEARS AGO, BUT,
MAYBE YOU
MIGHT'VE
REMEMBERED
HIM AS ONE OF
YOUR
SOLDIERS?

HIS NAME
WAS
DAISUKE.

THERE HAVE BEEN
SEVERAL MEN
WITH THAT NAME
IN MY ARMY...



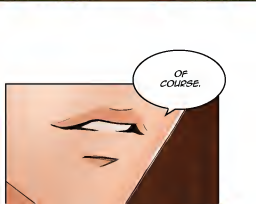


BUT, I MAY HAVE
MET HIM. I'LL SEE
WHAT I CAN
REMEMBER.

...IF YOU DO FIND
YOU REMEMBER HIM,
DO YOU THINK YOU
COULD TELL ME
WHAT HAPPENED TO
HIM...



BEFORE HE...
YOU KNOW...?



OF
COURSE.

NOW..

...YOU SHOULD
GO VISIT WITH
YOUR FAMILY
TODAY. YOU'VE

TONIGHT, YOU'RE
LUCKY TO HAVE
THEM NEARBY.



IT MIGHT MAKE
YOU FEEL LESS
OUT OF SORTS
TO GO SPEND
SOME TIME WITH
THEM FOR A
WHILE.



I'LL LET MR.
FUJIOKA
KNOW, SO
YOU CAN BE
EXCUSED
FROM
TRAINING WITH
HIM TODAY.

A woman with long, dark, wavy hair styled in a braid. She is shown in profile, looking towards the left. She has a slight smile and is wearing a brown jacket. The background is a solid dark brown color.

...THAT'S A
GOOD IDEA.



THANK YOU,
LIEUTENANT.





I'M NOT SURE
WHAT I SHOULD
BE TELLING MY
PARENTS WHEN
I SEE THEM... I
DON'T KNOW
WHERE TO
BEGIN.





I'VE HAD
DINNER WITH
THE KINGS, AND
FOOLISHLY
BEFRIENDED
THE
"BLOODIEST
COMMANDER"
IN THE ARMY.

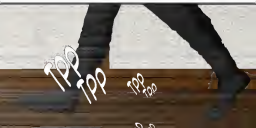
AND I THINK HE
MIGHT BE
INTERESTED IN
ME...

AND THE
LIEUTENANT
MAY BE
INTERESTED AS
WELL.



IT'S
CONCERNING,
THOUGH...

TO HOLD THE
ATTENTION OF
SUCH
DANGEROUS
PEOPLE.



AFTER ALL, THE
LIEUTENANT
AVOIDED MY
QUESTION
ABOUT THE
CORE. HE MAY
BE A PART OF IT
AS WELL.

Tpp

Tpp

Tpp

Tpp

TPP

TPP

TPP

TPP

TPP

TPP

TPP
TPP

TPP
TPP

I'M GOING
TO NEED TO
BE EXTRA
VIGILANT
CONCERNING
BOTH OF
THEM.



B

A









OH MY
GOODNESS,
I'M SO
SORRY!



I WASN'T
EVEN PAYING
ANY
ATTENTION,
I'M SO
SORRY!



I'LL PICK
UP
THESE
PAPERS
!



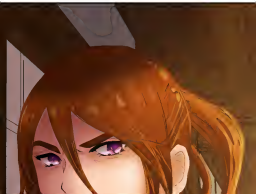


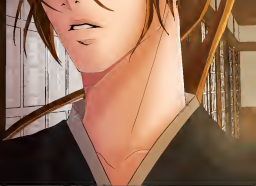


BLOOD CORE



LOST IN A
DAZE,
PEASANT?
STAND UP.





IT'S THE GENERAL?

FOR THE
ATTEMPTED
MURDER
OF PRINCE
OSAMU.

...YOU ...
BEING
A ...

...FROM THAT DAY...

**STAND UP,
YOU'RE
WASTING
MY TIME.**





HE'S PART OF THE CORE, TOO?

MY
APOLOGIES,
GENERAL.









WATCH WHERE
YOU'RE
GOING NEXT
TIME...

A close-up, high-angle shot of a woman's face. She has long, dark brown hair with lighter brown highlights. Her eyes are partially closed in a slight smile, and her lips are curved upwards. She is wearing a red garment. The background is a light-colored, textured wall.

*...ELSE, I
MAY NOT
BE SO
LENIENT.*



OOOF-



REALLY?

RESORTING TO SHOVING?

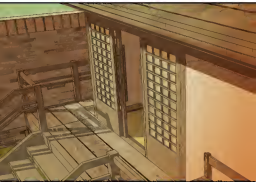




WHY DOES HE HATE
ME SO MUCH?







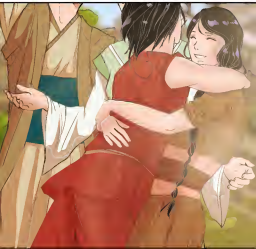




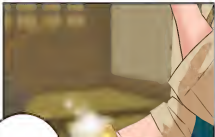
*I KNOW IT'S REALLY ONLY BEEN A FEW DAYS
SINCE I LAST SAW THEM, BUT...*



...I'VE MISSED THEM SO MUCH.



*I'M GLAD THE LIEUTENANT
SUGGESTED THIS.*



...CAN YOU
BELIEVE THEY
THOUGHT I
WOULD EVEN
ASK THAT?

IMAGINE ME,
PART OF A
HAREM!

HAHAHA



EW, SIS.

NOBODY
WANTS TO
SEE THAT.







NAH,
SHE'S
OFFICIAL,
MA!



SHUT-UP,
GIRL!

DAICHI,
NO I'M
NOT!!

YEAH,
YEAH,
BECAUSE
YOU'RE
TOO
UGLY!

DAICHI,
STOP
TEASING
YOUR
SISTER.

GET THE
KING
MUST BE
BLIND.
CUE YOU
LOOK
LIKE A
BUTTY

YOU'RE
THE
BLIND



WEND
ONE,
YOU
BUTTI!

...



...SO
SORRY TO
INTERRUPT.



A MESSENGER...?



...IT'S
ALRIGHT.
WHAT CAN I
DO FOR
YOU?

A LETTER
CAME FOR

DO YOU
MISS
KIHARA.





THE SENDER
WISHES TO
REMAIN
ANONYMOUS.